App. No. 10/661,011

Response to March 2, 2005 Office Action

Attorney Docket No. 061151-9008-00

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated in the marked-up version of the listing of claims

presented below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the

present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1 Claim 10, wherein the first

and second rotatable members include first and second wheels, respectively.

3. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1 Claim 10, wherein each of

the first and second rotatable members engages the same tray.

4. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1 Claim 10, wherein the at

least one tray comprises a plurality of nested trays in a vertical column having an uppermost

tray and a lowest tray.

5. (Original) The storage device of Claim 4, wherein the lowest tray of the plurality

of nested trays is supported by the first and second rotatable members.

6. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1 Claim 10, wherein the first

and second rotatable members include teeth extending from their respective outer surfaces, the

teeth engaging a lip on the tray.

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7. (Original) The storage device of Claim 6, wherein the at least one tray includes a

stack of nested trays having an uppermost tray and a lowest tray, and wherein the lowest tray is

supported by the teeth of the first and second rotatable members.

(Original) The storage device of Claim 6, wherein the teeth are configured with a

tapered shape.

8.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1, further comprising A storage

device for storing trays, comprising:

a first rotatable member;

a second rotatable member positioned opposite the first rotatable member, the

first and second rotatable members adapted to selectively support at least one tray

therebetween; and

at least one transfer mechanism movable relative to the tray to selectively insert

and remove the tray between the first and second rotatable members.

11. (Original) The storage device of Claim 10, further comprising at least one suction

device coupled to the transfer mechanism, the at least one suction device being engageable

with a bottom surface of the tray to cling to the tray.

12. (Original) The storage device of Claim 11, wherein the at least one suction

device utilizes a source of vacuum to assist the at least one suction device in clinging onto the

bottom surface of the tray.

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13. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1 Claim 10, further comprising

at least one motor driving the first and second rotatable members.

14. (Original) The storage device of Claim 13, further comprising a gearbox coupling

the at least one motor and the rotatable members.

15. (Original) The storage device of Claim 14, wherein the gearbox drives the first

and second rotatable members in opposite directions at substantially the same speed.

16. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1 Claim 10, wherein the first

rotatable member is driven by a first motor, and the second rotatable member is driven by a

second motor.

17. (Original) The storage device of Claim 16, further comprising a controller

operable to drive the first motor and the second motor.

18. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1 Claim 10, wherein the first

and second rotatable members are driven in opposite directions at substantially the same

speed.

19. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1 Claim 10, further comprising

a transfer mechanism configured for transferring a tray from a transfer position to a storage

position.

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20. (Original) The storage device of Claim 19, further comprising a conveyor

configured to transport the tray to and from the transfer position.

21. (Original) The storage device of Claim 20, wherein the transfer mechanism

includes at least one tine movable through the conveyor, the at least one tine engaging the tray

located at the transfer position and moving the tray to the storage position.

22. (Original) The storage device of Claim 21, further comprising at least one suction

device coupled to the tine, the at least one suction device being engageable with a bottom

surface of the tray to cling to the tray.

23. (Original) The storage device of Claim 22, wherein the at least one suction

device utilizes a source of vacuum to assist the at least one suction device in clinging onto the

bottom surface of the tray.

24. (Original) The storage device of Claim 19, wherein the transfer mechanism

elevates the tray from the transfer position to the storage position.

25. (Original) The storage device of Claim 19, wherein the first and second rotatable

members receive therebetween successive trays from the transfer mechanism, and wherein the

rotatable members store the successive trays in a nested configuration in the storage position.

26. (Currently amended) The storage device of Claim 1 Claim 10, further comprising

a shroud substantially covering the first rotatable member, the second rotatable member, and

the at least one tray supported by the rotatable members.

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27. (Currently amended) A method for storing trays, comprising:

transporting a first tray to a transfer position;

transferring lifting the first tray from the transfer position to a storage position;

and

supporting the first tray in the storage position by two opposed rotatable members; and

lowering the first tray from the storage position to the transfer position.

- 28. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
 transporting a second tray to the transfer position;
 transferring lifting the second tray from the transfer position to the storage position; and
 nesting the first and second trays.
- 29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 28, further comprising: supporting the second tray in the storage position by the two rotatable members; and lowering the second tray from the storage position to the transfer position.
- 30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 27, wherein transferring lifting the first tray includes:

 elevating the first tray from the transfer position; and
 driving the two opposing rotatable members in opposite directions to engage and

elevate the first tray to the storage position.

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31. (Cancelled).